

CLAIMS

What I claim is:

1       1. A mark-up tool used in operative cooperation with a  
2       computer to allow a user to review and/or alter a plurality  
3       of electronic native documents each of which may have  
4       different formats and each of which is stored in said  
5       computer, said mark-up tool comprising:

6               a) a selector for selecting and retrieving one of  
7       said stored plurality of said electronic native documents;  
8               b) a converter for changing the format of said  
9       selected native document to a common format; and  
10              c) an editor for reviewing and/or changing the  
11       selected document.

1       2. The mark-up tool according to claim 1 further  
2       comprising:

3               a) a re-converter for changing the common format of  
4       the selected document back to the format of the selected  
5       native document; and  
6               b) a director for storing said reconverted selected  
7       document into said computer.

1       3. The mark-up tool according to claim 1, wherein said  
2       stored native document comprises data and wherein said  
3       mark-up tool further comprises a compressor for compressing  
4       the data of said native document after it has been changed  
5       to said common format.

1       4. The mark-up tool according to claim 1, wherein said  
2       common format is of a postscript file.

1       5. The mark-up tool according to claim 1, wherein said  
2       mark-up tool comprises programs written in Microsoft (MS)  
3       VC<sup>++</sup>6.0.

1       6. A method used in operative cooperation with a computer  
2       to allow a user to review and alter a plurality of  
3       electronic native documents, each of which may have a  
4       different format and each of which is stored in said  
5       computer, said method comprising the steps of:

- 6           a) selecting and retrieving one of said stored  
7       plurality electronic native documents;
- 8           b) changing the format of said selected native  
9       document to a common format; and
- 10          c) reviewing and changing the selected document.

1       7. The method according to claim 6 further comprising the  
2       steps of:

3           a) re-converting the changed common format of the  
4       selected document back to the format of the selected native  
5       document; and

6           b) storing said reconverted selected document into  
7       said computer.

1       8. The method according to claim 6, wherein said stored  
2       native document comprises data and wherein said method  
3       further comprises the step of compressing the data of said  
4       selected native document after it has been changed to said  
5       common format.

1       9. The method according to claim 6, wherein said common  
2       format is of a postscript file.

1       10. The method according to claim 6, wherein said computer  
2       further comprises display means, and wherein said method  
3       further comprising the steps of:

4           a) providing a mouse for pointing to an area of a  
5       document displayed on said display means which is to be  
6       reviewed and/or altered;

7           b) using the mouse to point at the top left area of  
8 the displayed document to be reviewed and/or altered;  
9           c) dragging the now pointer created by the mouse to  
10 the bottom right area of the displayed document to be  
11 reviewed and/or altered;  
12           d) providing a color-coded rectangle surrounding an  
13 area encompassed by said dragging;  
14           e) releasing the mouse;  
15           f) providing a dialog on said display to allow a user  
16 to enter alterations to information confined in said color-  
17 coded area; and  
18           g) entering said alterations.

1       11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said color-  
2 coded rectangle is a color selected from the group  
3 consisting of blue, green, and red.

1       12. The method of claim 11, wherein said color-coded  
2 rectangle further comprises a strip that is selected from  
3 the group consisting of dashed Xs and dashed checks.